

9/11/69

Dear Paul and Gary,

It looks as though the addition to COUP is about 200,000 words, from estimates based on the approximately 25% of it my wife has retyped. Her pages are uniform, as mine of ms. are not.

For a while I'll be doing odds and ends with this, then I plan to return to Post Mortem, do the second part, and then I want to do AGENT OSWALD. I suppose that subconsciously the rather large task of writing + have set for myself and the improbability of achieving commercial publication are part of an oppression of which I have no awareness that contributes to what has been diagnosed as anxiety. If this is the case, then I feel the important thing is to clean this up and get it off my back. However, before I do any of that, I want to finish this immediate thing up. I'll be doing a series of notes updating what is in COUP as you have seen it and will use them as a sort of appendix. There is no appendix to the addition. This means that for a while my days will be broken anyway, for there is no continuity to these notes, and I can more readily stop that work for other things.

So, if there is anything either of you has asked of me that + have not done or have forgotten, anything to which I have not responded or not responded adequately, this is a good time to remind me. I'd rather catch up on this sort of thing now than when I return to PM, for then I'll have to reread the two books I've done, try and keep all that in mind while also trying to recall so much of what I've forced from my mind on the autopsy to include in Part 2, that it will be difficult enough without diversions.

Before I resume writing on PM, I plan to go to DC and copy the important parts of the afternoon session of the Halleck trial. Bud got the morning session, + have gone over it and extracted all of meaning. Lil has already typed that for inclusion in the appendix of PM III. I want this to follow that, for it is an amazing expression of federal bankruptcy. It is one thing new as it relates to the integrity of government lawyers, for here they faced testimony in the legal sense, when they were unrestricted in their cross examination, and they could in no way shake it. Of course, Forman was a disaster, but that is without meaning because Bud shouldn't have used him anyway, he was unnecessary. I had given Wecht more than he needed, and when he used his own great competence on this raw material he made a marvelous record. So, here the government learned its entire solution to the assassination was a fake, and it and these lawyers have been silent. They have also failed to respond to my requests for access to the transcript of the trial. I am confident there is a transcript in the clerk of that court's office and that I'll be able to xerox those pages I want. I do not know when this will be, but I intend it as soon as I have no more to do on this addition.

I have heard nothing on the microfilming, or printouts of it, nothing new from any govt agency. Nor have + heard from Bud since he told me the DJ had phoned him and asked him to hold off on filing the suit for me, to which he agreed. However, within a day or so he should have received the promised letter.

If there is anything either of you wants done at the Archives, please give me memos and I'll try and find time before I return to PM. If either of you has associates who can check things in libraries and copies of the Memphis Commercial-Appeal are available, there are two things I'm interested in (not urgent). They printed excerpts from a citizen's recording of part of the fake broadcasts of the chase, in an issue the date of which I do not have (the paper has not responded to

my request for a copy). Also, Ray is supposed to have had a copy of their issue of April 4, 1969 (another version, the first page of that issue) and to have left it with the other junk (another version, wrapped in the paper). While there is nothing unusual in his having the local paper of the day before, I have some curiosity about two things: the stories in it that might relate to knowledge he could have had, as of where King was staying, and any unusual classified ads. One other possibility of a sign could be a story on the robbing of a gunshop (which did happen), among those things stolen being a rifle identical with the one he bought in Birmingham. That, too, could have been a signal.

Although my Senator said he'd inquiry at the Archives about the inordinate delays in responding, now that I've had a few moments to think, I realize I've not heard from him about this. Hence I've told you nothing further about it.

I expect an executive of a major publishing house to come here this weekend, while he is on vacation. I am without optimism about it for a number of reasons, one of which is my previous experience with that house and my certain knowledge that he does not make the final decision, even if he is an executive. However, he may get interested enough to attempt to influence decisions, he is interested in the subjects (he was a friend of King's), and he may be able to think of other approaches that could help. I know COUP, in its final form, will be too large for commercial publication. Without the extensive appendix, it will run about a third of a million words. It can be a valuable historical record. It is publishable as a book as it will be when Lil finishes typing this addition, but that only privately, and it is beyond my dreams, our indebtedness now is so great. If I were to guess the cost of a 5,000 printing, for which I cannot see a possibility of sales anything near this (but it is more economical in printing), I'd say from \$8,000 to \$10,000 dollars, plus the cost of shooting, which, at cost, what I've been able to arrange in the past, would be not less than \$500-\$750. It is my hope, however, that parts of it can be saleable, and I cannot be certain what parts, and that the King/Ray stuff can be excerpted into a separate book that need not include all I have on this aspect alone.

I have heard nothing new from Nichols on his suit. He has not yet sent me his brief, so I suppose his lawyers haven't yet completed it. I have sent you what I did for him on this. When I get the brief, if he hasn't sent you copies and you want to borrow mine, let me know. I'll make copies of anything I send him thereafter for both of you.

Gary, as time for your projected trip to Dallas draws closer, I'd like, when you have time, to go into Dr. Harper and his nephew with you. This is one of the things I had to skip when JG asked me to return to N.O. last November while I was in Dallas and, when I got onto other things, it entirely slipped my mind. I have all but my suspicions in PM, when you read it. If you haven't come to that point yet, when you do, please go over it carefully. Those couple of reports have fascinated me since the late Spring of 1966. There is more, a little of which Roffman has gotten.

Hope you are both staying with your school work, that Paul has shaken the lingering effects of his infection.

Best,